

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector ~~with access to an information provider such that the event detector is able to receive information from the information provider;~~

receiving by the event detector information of an event from an information provider;

determining by the event detector a level of importance of the event relative to a user of the digital assistant; first person; and

weighing by the agent selector the level of importance against an amount of intrusion to the user if the digital assistant takes an action to resolve the event;

performing by the digital assistant the action to resolve the event without contacting the user if the level of importance of the event is ~~determined by the digital assistant to be~~ greater than or equal to a first ~~predetermined~~ threshold[[,]] and ~~if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below~~ less than or equal to a second ~~predetermined~~ threshold[[,]]; and

contacting by the digital assistant the user in order for the user to resolve the event if the level of importance is greater than the second threshold

~~then taking an action including at least one of: providing payment to an e-commerce provider, making a telephone call on behalf of the first person, rescheduling a flight, and altering reservations, in response to the event without contacting any person.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the ~~first person~~ user.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from where said at least one person is currently located.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the ~~first person's~~ user's preferences to determine if the ~~first person~~ user would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the ~~first~~

~~person~~ user to respond to the event without contacting any person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the user~~first person~~.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises taking into account whether or not an earlier attempt was made to contact at least one person.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning rules specified by the user ~~first person~~ concerning circumstances in which the ~~first person~~ user will not permit action to be taken without at least one person being contacted.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein referring to rules specified by the ~~first person~~ user further comprises referring to information concerning exceptions to those rules.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive by an event detector of a digital assistant information of an event from an information provider;

determine by the event detector a level of importance of the event relative to a user of the digital assistant; ~~first person~~; and

weigh by an agent selector of the digital assistant the level of importance against an amount of intrusion to the user if the digital assistant takes an action to resolve the event;

perform by the digital assistant the action to resolve the event without contacting the user if the level of importance of the event is ~~determined by the digital assistant to be~~ greater than or equal to a first ~~predetermined~~ threshold[[,]] and if ~~the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below~~ less than or equal to a second ~~predetermined~~ threshold[[,]]; and

contact by the digital assistant the user in order for the user to resolve the event if the level of importance is greater than the second threshold

~~then taking an action including at least one of: providing payment to an e-commerce provider, making a telephone call on behalf of the first person, rescheduling a flight, and altering reservations, in response to the event without contacting any person.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the ~~first person~~ user.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from where said at least one person is currently located.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the ~~first person's~~ user's preferences to determine if the ~~first-person~~ user would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the ~~first-person~~ user to respond to the event without contacting at least one person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the ~~first-person~~ user.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises taking into account whether or not an earlier attempt was made to contact at least one person.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning rules specified by the ~~first-person~~ user concerning circumstances in which the ~~first-person~~ user will not permit action to be taken without at least one person being contacted.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein referring to rules specified by the ~~first person~~ user further comprises referring to information concerning exceptions to those rules.

21. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector, the event selector with having access to an information provider such that the event detector is able to receive information from the information provider;

receiving by the event detector information concerning a previous attempt to contact at least one person concerning an event;

determining by the event detector a level of importance of the event to a user of the digital assistant; ~~first person; and~~

weighing by the agent selector the level of importance against an amount of intrusion to the user if the digital assistant takes an action to resolve the event;

performing by the digital assistant the action to resolve the event without contacting the user and without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold[[,]] and if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below less than or equal to a second predetermined threshold[[,]]; and

contacting by the digital assistant the user in order for the user to resolve the event if the level of importance is greater than the second threshold

~~then taking an action including at least one of: providing payment to an e-commerce provider, making a telephone call on behalf of the first person, rescheduling a flight, and altering reservations, in response to the event without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person.~~

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises evaluating the effect of the passage of time since a previous attempt to contact at least one person was made on the level of importance of the event.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the ~~first person's~~ user's

preferences to determine if the ~~first person~~ user would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the ~~first person~~ user to respond to the event without contacting at least one person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the user~~first person~~.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive by an event detector of a digital assistant information concerning a previous attempt to contact at least one person concerning an event;

determine by the event detector a level of importance of the event to a user of the digital assistant~~first person~~; and

weigh by an agent selector of the digital assistant the level of importance against an amount of intrusion to the user if the digital assistant takes an action to resolve the event;

perform by the digital assistant the action to resolve the event without contacting the user and without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person if the level of importance of the event is ~~determined by the digital assistant to be~~ greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold[[,]] and if the level of importance of the event is ~~determined by the digital assistant to be below~~ less than or equal to a second ~~predetermined~~ threshold[[,]]; and

contact by the digital assistant the user in order for the user to resolve the event if the level of importance is greater than the second threshold

~~then taking an action including at least one of: providing payment to an e-commerce provider, making a telephone call on behalf of the first person, rescheduling a flight, and altering reservations, in response to the event without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person.~~

28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises evaluating the effect of the passage of time since a previous attempt to contact at least one person was made on the level of importance of the event.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the ~~first person's~~ user's preferences to determine if the ~~first person~~ user would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the ~~first person~~ user to respond to the event without contacting at least one person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the ~~first person~~ user.

31. (Currently Amended) A digital assistant programmed by a ~~first person~~ user with information concerning the ~~first person's~~ user's activities, and configured by a ~~first person~~ the user to:

receive by an event detector of a digital assistant information of an event from an information provider;

determine by the event detector a level of importance of the event relative to the user;
~~a first person~~; and

weigh by an agent selector of the digital assistant the level of importance against an amount of intrusion to the user if the digital assistant takes an action to resolve the event;

perform by the digital assistant the action to resolve the event without contacting the user if the level of importance of the event is ~~determined by the digital assistant to be~~ greater than or equal to a first ~~predetermined~~ threshold[[,]] and if ~~the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below~~ less than or equal to a second ~~predetermined~~ threshold[[,]]; and

contact by the digital assistant the user in order for the user to resolve the event if the level of importance is greater than the second threshold

~~then taking an action including at least one of: providing payment to an e-commerce provider, making a telephone call on behalf of the first person, rescheduling a flight, and altering reservations, in response to the event without making an attempt to contact at least one person.~~

32. (Currently Amended) The digital assistant of claim 31 further programmed by the user ~~first person~~ with the first and second thresholds.

33. (Currently Amended) The digital assistant of claim 31 further programmed by the ~~first person~~ user with rules indicating when action should always be taken without making an attempt to contact at least one person.

34.-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising determining whether or not an opportunity to take any action remains.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

ceasing to take action if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below the first predetermined threshold; and

logging an instance of a lack of resolution in response to the event if it is determined that no further action is possible.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the processor is further caused to determine whether or not an opportunity to take any action remains.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the processor is further caused to:

cease to take action if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below the first predetermined threshold; and

log an instance of a lack of resolution in response to the event if it is determined that no further action is possible.